

# **Western Regional Trauma Advisory Committee (WRTAC)**

July 15<sup>th</sup>, 2005

North Valley Hospital, Whitefish, MT

## **Trauma Coordinator / Registrar Meeting**

**Present:** Robin Foley, Linda Sund, Janet Arnold, Leah Emerson, Shelley Otoupalik, Alexis Brandenburg, Carolyn Bellamah, Kim Todd

**Trauma System Conference** – The State Trauma System Conference is scheduled for Wednesday, Sept. 7<sup>th</sup> from 8a-5p in Missoula at the Holiday Inn Parkside. The conference will provide a hands-on case review lectures that tie into a PI and case review at the end of the day. There will be a breakout session for trauma registry report writing in the morning for registrars.

**Advanced Trauma Nurse Course** – The group discussed the possibility of having an Advanced Trauma Nurse Course that will be held in conjunction with ATLS. Carolyn Bellamah is looking into this and will provide more information at a later date.

**Western Regional Trauma Coordinator Job** – At this time, the Regional Trauma Coordinator positions have been put on hold. Jenny Nemec from St. Pete's in Helena has been hired to the EMS and Trauma System to help with RTAC communication, hospital designation, etc.

**Pediatric Disaster Life Support Course – PDLS** - This is a course to train EMS and clinicians how to deal with the many issues children face in the event of a disaster. It is a two day course available in various regions around the state. Polson will have a course on Aug. 25 & 26, and Missoula will host a course on Sept. 22 & 23. For more information on the course in Missoula, contact Carolyn Bellamah, 327-4309.

**Request for ED policies and protocols** – The committee discussed the possibility of sharing ED policies and protocols to help those facilities that are revising or developing a policy book. Possibly a CD of submitted policies and protocols can be distributed to any facility that requests it. More information will be discussed at the next meeting.

**WRTAC Meeting**  
**July 15<sup>th</sup>**  
**Hosted by North Valley Hospital, Whitefish, MT**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The WRTAC meeting was called to order at 11:50am by Dr. Richard Gould, Chair. Attendance was noted by Dr. Gould and the facilities with the most attendance were presented with a check for \$100 each donated by Dr. Gould's surgical practice. Thank you Dr. Gould!

**Review of Minutes**

The minutes from March 2005 were reviewed and accepted as written.

**Attendance**

Please see attendance roster.

**Central Medical Dispatch**

The meeting was opened up with a lengthy discussion regarding the need for a central medical dispatch / triage system. Several key issues surrounding this discussion were, 1. additional ALS flight programs that are coming to Western Montana that may respond to an area in a region where there is a facility that has the resources to resuscitate and care for the patients, but bypass that facility and take the patient to another region where there is higher level of trauma care. 2. one-call central medical dispatch for transport services around Western Montana. The group discussed in detail whether or not this is needed, and consensus was that the system in place with the receiving facilities works well and does not take more than one phone call to initiate a transfer to a higher level of care. 3. statewide triage can be mandated by MT law, although this may not be the best approach.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Medical Director Report**

The medical director subcommittee met, no new issues/concerns to report.

**Education and Finance Report**

The committee approved allotting money towards the Rocky Mountain Rural Trauma Symposium to pay for one individual from each facility and transporting agency in Western Montana. The committee additionally approved \$500 for a September PHTLS Course in Thompson Falls. The grant writer that was hired to work on the WRTAC grant is no longer able to assist due to unexpected health problems. The foundation of the grant proposal has been laid and with some tweaking, the grant can be submitted for other grants.

**Recommendation: The grant criteria and application will be sent to Thom and Kim for their review to see how the grant application can be rewritten for other grant proposals.**

**Injury Prevention Report**

The posters are complete and were distributed to committee members present. From previous discussions, the committee has been supportive of a region wide behavioral intervention training for emergency and hospital personnel to talk with patients in a brief and non-judgmental way about alcohol and the role it plays in their life. With the State's

help through a possible grant, a Behavioral Intervention Training will be held in Missoula at St. Patrick Hospital on Friday, November 11<sup>th</sup> from 9a – 5p. The training is free and is available for anyone that is interested in doing Bls. For more information, contact 329-5660.

### **CASE REVIEW**

Two educational points were made from the case reviews:

1. Pressors are not recommended with hypovolemic shock
2. Consider pain management in the ED

### **STATE REPORT**

The State has been receiving many Hospital Trauma Registry abstracts. She reminded folks to only abstract those charts that meet the State HTR criteria.

The State will pay for one nurse and one MD to attend the MT Trauma System Conference. There will be interactive discussion and case reviews. Register with Pam LaFontaine at 444-3895.

Rocky Mountain Rural Trauma Symposium – will be held in Missoula at the Holiday Inn Parkside on Thursday and Friday, Sept. 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup>. The WRTAC will provide a scholarship to pay for the registration fee for one hospital person and one EMT from each transporting agency in Western MT. The brochures will be mailed soon. For more information regarding the scholarships available, contact 329-5660, or [bperkins@saintpatrick.org](mailto:bperkins@saintpatrick.org)

ATLS – Course dates and locations in Montana for 2005:

Sept. 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> – PROVIDER COURSE – Bozeman

Nov. 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> – PROVIDER COURSE – Billings

Note: NEW - Nurses can audit the course for \$150

For registration information, contact 444-3895 or

<http://www.dphhs.state.mt.us/hpsd/pubheal/healsafe/ems/emsother/calendar.htm#atls>

On-line education – a great source of free on-line education is at [www.traumaed.com](http://www.traumaed.com)

The Injury Prevention Subcommittee of the STCC is looking for a representative from Western RTAC. This meeting is held quarterly on the first Monday.

**Recommendation: Dale Dahlman volunteered to fill this position.**

Kim shared some data with the group. There are approximately 100 more patients for 2005, which most likely means that more hospitals are submitting data. .

**Recommendation: The committee would like to see a report on 1. the number of transfers made to hospital out-of-state, to look at in more detail the reason the patient is being sent out and can they be taken care of by another hospital in-state?, 2. Outcomes**

Medical Disaster Preparedness: Stu Reynolds recently attended a national conference on medical disaster preparedness and he is willing to come to a WRTAC meeting and share some of the topic highlights.

**Recommendation: The WRTAC agreed to invite Dr. Reynolds to either the Oct. or Jan. meeting.**

**Area Trauma Plan Updates:****Butte**

St. James has implemented the on-call transport number for all interfacility transfers to their facility. Additionally, 24/7 general surgery and orthopedic surgery coverage is in place.

**Missoula**

CMC is waiting for final approval for their Level III Trauma Verification status. Additionally, a one-call transport number has been initiated for interfacility transfers and the helicopter service will be up and running sometime this fall.

**Flathead**

A second neurosurgeon has been hired at Kalispell Regional Medical Center and the application for an ACS consultative visit has been sent for KMC.

**Meeting Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00pm. Dr. Gould thanked North Valley on behalf of the WRTAC for hosting this meeting and providing lunch and beverages.

**The next meeting will take place on Friday, October 14<sup>th</sup> at St. James in Butte.**

**Please mark your calendar that the meeting in April is scheduled for Friday, April 22, 2006 at SPH.**